

## **ECONOMICS STATUS OF SCHEDULED CASTE, SOCIO-LIVING CONDITIONS, AND POLICIES OF CENTRAL AS WELL AS STATE GOVERNMENT: A STUDY OF BORDER AREAS OF JAMMU DISTRICT**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This study which aims at investigating the status, socio-living/economic background of schedule castes of boarder areas in Jammu district. Schedule castes are those castes/races which have been or may in future be specified in a list in accordance with Article 341 of our constitution. The people of these castes are considered outcastes and categorized as untouchables. They remain at the bottom of social hierarchy and have been socially deprived, discriminated and exploited by the upper caste people since time immemorial. This paper will clearly show the result and what type of conditions are happened regarding scheduled castes of boarder areas in Jammu District. There are number of suggestions are available by which scheduled castes conditions can be well-being.

**KEYWORDS:** Status of Scheduled Caste, Socio-Living Conditions and Government Policies

### **INTRODUCTION**

The economic status of a society or community refers to its position as to where it stands on the ladder of financial position. Most important determinants of economic status of a society or community are its per capita income, the standard of living, the level of consumption etc. Different indicators of the levels of living presents the "Macro" as well as "Micro" level dimensions of the process of development. While per capita income and per capita consumption expenditure are some of the macro level indicators of development, the distribution of household expenditure is a micro level indicator. The standard of living of households can be understood from their income levels, occupational patterns, consumption patterns and accessibility to quality education of their children (Mathew, 2003).

The concept of growth with social justice is said to be the basic philosophy of development underlying Indian Economic planning. Consistent with this concept, all development programmes in India have laid special stress upon the material upliftment of the backward classes who, because of years of exploitation have been exposed to vulnerabilities of all sorts. A significant subset of this group of backward classes is the scheduled castes (SCs) and scheduled tribes (STs) (Nayak and Parsad, 1984).

Among the various socially deprived classes, scheduled castes suffer from the dual disabilities of severe economic exploitation and social discrimination while they constitute near about 16 per cent of the total population in the country, their proportion is much larger-more than twice in the poverty groups of the country (Ahmed, 1978).

Article 366 (24) of the Constitution of India defines the term Scheduled Caste in the following way, "Scheduled Castes mean such castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within such castes, races or tribes as are deemed under Article 341 (the President of India to specify the castes, races and tribes to be included in the list of Scheduled Castes

in relation to a particular State or Union Territory, once such a list is notified with respect to any State or Union Territory) to be Scheduled Castes for the purpose of this Constitution". The exploitation and discrimination against scheduled castes is traced back to the Vedic period. They form the lowest strata of traditional Hindu Society. They were forced to do the unclean tasks on behalf of the society. Since they were assigned the role of performing unclean tasks, they came to be treated as outcastes or "*Untouchables*" (Galanter, 1984). It is this social stigma that pushed them down to the bottom of the social ladder alienating them from the mainstream of the society and assigning them to a position lower than several depressed classes who also suffered from social, economic and educational deprivation (Scheduled caste Sub Plan, 2006).

It is the practice of untouchability and the plight of scheduled castes generation after generation that attracted a considerable political attention during the nationalist movements. It was Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's dramatization of the deprivations and disadvantages suffered by scheduled castes that led the Indian leaders to recognize the need for the upliftment of the socio-economic conditions of the scheduled castes. As a result, foundation for a policy of protective discrimination was laid after Gandhi's historic fast at Poona in the face of Ambedkar's demand for separate electorate for scheduled castes (Ahmed, 1978). In independent India, after the abolition of untouchability, it was expected that the policies made for the upliftment of scheduled castes got momentum and in a course of time this would bring about amelioration of the scheduled castes. However, the cases of continuous harassment and exploitation of the Harijans (scheduled castes) has been witnessed in several parts of the country even today (Mutatkar, 2005).

### **Scheduled Castes in Jammu and Kashmir**

The state of Jammu and Kashmir (known as crown of India) located in the extreme north of the country has three main geographical divisions-Ladakh, Kashmir and Jammu. All these regions are different from one another culturally, Linguistically and ethnically. According to census of 2001, scheduled castes in Jammu and Kashmir constitutes about 7.6 percent of the total population of the state. There are about 770,155 scheduled castes in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Among the three regions scheduled castes are mainly concentrated in the Jammu region of the state. The growth of scheduled caste population during 1981-2001 has been 54.9 per cent. Since the census of 1991 was not conducted in the state, decadal population growth rate (1991-2001) was not possible to workout. Thirteen (13) castes have been scheduled in respect of Jammu and Kashmir and about 82.6% of them lives in rural areas. District wise distribution of the scheduled caste population shows that they have maximum concentration in Jammu with a share of 24.9 per cent followed by Kathua (23.2%) and Udhampur (19.1%). As far as Kashmir district is concerned a very few scheduled castes have been recorded.

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The present study entitled an "Economics Status of Scheduled Caste: A study of Border Areas of Jammu District and their socio-economic conditions. Findings and Possible Suggestions," is based on primary and secondary sources. Secondary information and data has been collected through books, Journals and various reports etc. Primary data has been collected through comprehensive questionnaire.

### **Selection of the Area**

The universe for conducting the present study has been selected through purposive random sampling technique i.e. Gharna village, Sai Khurd village, Chandu Check village and Bega village of Jammu district.

### Selection of the Households

A sample of 25 households from each villager in Jammu district has been selected randomly.

### Methods of Enquiry and Collection of Data

The enquiry has been conducted through the survey method. Data has been collected through personal interview method with the respondents in a well-structured questionnaire.

### Analysis of Data

After the collection of the data it has been tabulated and analysed with simple statistical tools such as percentage.

### Socio-Living Conditions of Scheduled Castes

Socio-living conditions of a population is an important indicator of the well-being of a community and can be assessed by studying the indicators such as demographic profile, amenities, land ownership, occupation, income, expenditure, workforce participation rate, literacy, housing conditions, etc. An attempt has been made in this chapter to know the socio-living characteristics of the scheduled caste population of the study area by way of their demographic profile, literacy rate, workforce participation rate, housing conditions, basic facilities s such as drinking water, sanitation, electricity, etc., so that we can analyze their social conditions in the area.

### Demographic Profile of the Sample Households

Demographic Profile reflects the human capital of a region and economic progress of any region depends mainly on the quality of human capital of the region (Koundal, 2011). Unlike other parts of the country and state, the quality of human capital is not very bad in the study area. Moderate Dependency ratio and a little higher level of economically active population are the main demographic features of the study area of the present study. These characteristics along with population structure are shown from the figures presented in table 1. The following table presents the age-wise distribution of 100 households (25 household from each village) respondents and their family members separately, in each village under study.

The survey revealed that in all the four villages – **Gharna, Sai Khurd, Chandu Check** and **Bega**, of study area, the total number of scheduled castes is 525, out of which males are 274 and there are 251 females constituting a sex ratio of 916. The data presented in the table shows that a very large number of family members of respondents are in the age group of 0-14 years (25.3%) and 14-25 years (27.6%). This is because of the fact that our nation in general and our state in particular is still in the developing stage of Demographic Transition where to some extent our health facilities have been improved result in declining death rate but birth rate is still high due to various social, economic and political factors. Therefore, maximum number of scheduled caste population of the study area is falling at the lower level. It implies that study area has high growth potential, but this potential can be achieved only if this section of population is provided with quality education along with better health and other related facilities.

Data also shows that in the age group of 25-40 years about 22.86 per cent of population falls and 20 per cent are falling in the age group of 40-60 years. Only 4.19 per cent respondents are of age above 60 which reflects low social and economic security for the old age people.

This is because since most of the old age population (above 60 years) are depend upon their families for survival

but a major portion of the earning members in the study area is engaged in unorganized sector such as farming, wage earning, etc and their incomes are too low to provide adequate social and economic security for its old age population in the study area. If we look at sex ratio i.e., number of females per thousand males in the study area, we may find that in the age group of 0-14 years, over all sex ratio is 1046. But village wise data shows a different picture, as it is evident from the table that in **Bega** village sex ratio in the age group of 0-14 years is just 466 which is less than half of the combined sex ratio of 1046. This indicates that in **Bega** village young couples are also very unwilling to have female child. Since the income of the respondents in **Bega** is comparatively high so they may afford to restrict the birth of female child by adopting illegal ways such as sex determination and resultant abortion if female child is expected.

In **Chandu check** also we find very low sex ratio (842) in this age group (0-14). Sex ratio (0-14) is highest in **Sai Khurd** (1625) followed by **Gharna** (1266). In the age group of 14-25 years, combined sex ratio is found to be 705 with all the villages showing sex ratio below 700 (**Sai Khurd**-629, **Chandu Check**-684, **Bega**-633) except **Gharna** which found to have sex ratio of 1000.

In the age group of 25-40 years, the combined sex ratio is 1714, highest being in **Chandu Check** (1666) and lowest in **Bega** (1300). **Gharna** and **Sai Khurd** show a sex ratio of 1400 and 1636 respectively. It is only in this age group (25-40) that the overall and village wise sex ratio is more than 1000. Although it seems good but the real picture is different. It has been observed while collecting data that the sex ratio in this age group (25-40) is high because most of the male respondents in this age group got married, therefore, almost equal number of females are present in this age group.

**Table 1: Demographic Profile of Sample Households**

Demographic profile for the study area																																			
	Gharna							Sai Khurd							Chandu Check							Bega							Combined						
Age Group	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%	sex ratio	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%	sex ratio	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%	sex ratio	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%	sex ratio	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%	sex ratio
0-14	15	44.1	19	55.9	34	28.1	1266	16	30.1	26	61.9	42	29.4	1625	19	54.3	16	45.7	35	25.7	842	15	68.2	7	31.8	22	17.6	466	65	48.9	68	51.1	133	25.3	1046
14-25	13	50	13	50	26	21.5	1000	27	61.4	17	38.6	44	30.8	629	19	59.4	13	40.6	32	23.5	684	26	60.5	17	39.5	43	34.4	633	85	58.6	60	41.4	145	27.6	705
25-40	15	41.7	21	58.3	36	29.8	1400	11	37.9	18	62.1	29	20.3	1636	12	37.5	20	62.5	32	23.5	1666	10	43.5	13	56.5	23	18.4	1300	48	40	72	60	120	22.9	1714
40-60	11	68.8	5	31.3	16	13.2	454	19	70.4	8	29.6	27	18.9	421	15	50	15	50	30	22.1	1000	17	53.1	15	46.9	32	25.6	882	62	59	43	41	105	20	693
Above 60	4	44.4	5	55.6	9	7.44	1250	1	100	0	0	1	0.7	0	6	85.7	1	14.3	7	3.15	166	3	60	2	40	5	4	666	14	63.6	8	36.4	22	4.19	571
Total	58	47.9	63	52.1	121	100	1086	74	51.7	69	48.3	143	100	932	71	52.2	65	47.8	136	100	915	71	56.8	54	43.2	125	100	760	274	52.2	251	47.8	525	100	916

**Note:** Percentage with regard to total number of males and females in all age groups

**Source:** Survey Data.

Besides, in many households, female respondents has been seen especially between 25 to 30 years of age who are still unmarried which further raises the sex ratio in this age group. For the age group 40-60 years, the overall sex ratio is 693 which is also very low when compared with the overall sex ratio of 916. Village wise sex ratio in age group 40-60 years is as follows- **Gharna**-454, **Sai Khurd**-421, **Chandu Check**-1000 and **Bega**-882. When we look at the sex ratio in the age group of above 60 we can see that the overall sex ratio is lowest i.e., 571. If we consider the overall sex ratio of each village separately, we can see that **Gharna** shows sex ratio of 1086 (highest), **Sai Khurd** with sex ratio of 932 occupied the second place followed by **Chandu Check** with sex ratio 915. **Bega** shows the lowest sex ratio i.e. 760.

### Literacy Rate of the Sample Household

Scheduled castes are among the most marginalized social groups and were widely excluded from educational provisions for a long time. However, in the recent years literacy rate among the scheduled castes have been showing increasing trends but much more efforts are needed to bring them in line with the other communities. Table 2 gives the detail of education level of both males and female scheduled castes of four villages of study area separately. In the four villages- Gharna, Sai Khurd, Chandu Check and Bega the literacy level is observed to be 67.6 per cent, 65.6 per cent, 87.39 per cent and 83.61 per cent respectively. Thus literacy rate is highest in Chandu Check followed by Bega and lowest in Sai Khurd. The combined literacy rate of the study area is found to be 75.05 per cent. However, the male literacy rate is higher (79.92%) than female literacy rate (70.78%).

It is clear from the table that out of total sampled male population of 250 (we have excluded 0-7 years of population because they are under age) 20.08 are illiterate, 27 (11.3%) have received elementary education, 28.03 per cent up to middle level, 24.69 per cent are studied up to high level, 14.23 per cent higher secondary and only 1.67 per cent are graduate and above. As far as Diploma and technical education is concerned, the observations are very disappointing that not a single individual person fall under this category. In case of females, out of total 219 (excluded 0-7), 29.22 per cent female population is found illiterate, and those who are literate maximum per cent are educated up to high level (25.57%), 17.35 per cent are educated up to middle level and 15.98 per cent up to primary. 11.87 per cent are educated up to higher secondary. However, not a single female is found educated up to graduation and above.

Diploma and technical education also shows the similar trend. If we compare the four villages we may find that both male literacy (69.2%) and female literacy (61.4) is lowest in Sai Khurd village and Chandu Check shows the highest literacy rate among both males (92.19 %) and female (81.8%). The important thing which we have noticed that the male respondents are more educated than female respondents in all the four villages. It shows that as like with other communities, scheduled caste communities also prefers for male education. Secondly, very few have gone for graduation and above after Higher Secondary. When the researcher asked the household that why their children leave the education after 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> and not go for higher education or technical/professional education, they gave various reasons for this situation.

Firstly, they are very poor thus cannot afford to send their children for higher or technical education. Secondly, most of them have studied in government schools where the standard of education is very low despite highly qualified faculty; as a result they got very poor marks and are unable to compete in the entrance exams to pursue technical education or other higher education. Even if they get admission in colleges or other technical institutions, they feel embarrassed due to their inefficiency to compete with other classmates due to their weak background, thus they leave the institutions in between. Last but not the least, the opportunity cost of sending their wards for higher education is very high i.e., they have to choose between whether to send their children to study or to work.

They compare the cost of sending them to educational institutions and cost of keeping them at home. According to the households the cost of keeping the children at home is very low while sending them for higher or technical or professional training is very costly. Moreover, these children also help their parents in domestic work and sometimes even earn money for them, especially male child. Therefore, we can say that according to respondents the opportunity cost of sending their wards for higher education is very high, so they prefer to keep them at home.



Table 2: Literacy Rate in Study Area

Literacy Rate in the Study Area																														
Educational Level	Gharna					Sai Khurd					Chandu Check					Bega					Combined									
	Male	% age	Female	% age	Total	Male	% age	Female	% age	Total	Male	% age	Female	% age	Total	Male	% age	Female	% age	Total	% age	Male	% age	Female	% age	Total	% age			
Illiteracy	5	(28.8) (42.9)	20	(35.7) (57.1)	35	(32.4) (100)	28	(30.8) (47.6)	22	(38.6) (2.34)	42	(34.4) (100)	5	(7.5) (33.3)	10	(16.2) (66.7)	5	(2.6) (100)	8	(18.2) (40)	12	(23.5) (60)	20	(36.3) (90)	48	(20.08) (42.9)	64	(23.22) (57.7)	112	(24.35) (100)
Primary	3	(17.3) (45)	11	(19.6) (55)	20	(25.3) (100)	3	(19.6) (45)	11	(15.3) (55)	28	(16.43) (100)	4	(6.25) (33.3)	8	(14.5) (51.1)	12	(10.04) (100)	5	(1.04) (50)	5	(3.8) (50)	10	(8.15) (90)	27	(11.3) (41.5)	35	(15.36) (56.5)	62	(13.53) (100)
Middle	14	(26.3) (60.5)	3	(6.1) (8.1)	23	(21.3) (100)	17	(26.2) (51.5)	16	(28.1) (8.5)	33	(21.7) (100)	18	(26.1) (66.7)	3	(16.4) (33.3)	27	(22.09) (60)	16	(25.35) (1.8)	4	(1.84) (18.2)	22	(18.63) (90)	67	(26.03) (51.8)	38	(17.35) (34.2)	105	(22.92) (100)
High	12	(23.2) (45.5)	10	(8.1) (45.5)	22	(20.4) (100)	11	(6.3) (64.7)	6	(16.5) (35.2)	17	(15.5) (100)	20	(31.3) (52.6)	18	(32.1) (33.3)	38	(31.33) (100)	23	(40.85) (56.3)	22	(43.14) (43.1)	51	(41.6) (90)	59	(24.65) (51.3)	56	(25.51) (46.7)	115	(25.10) (100)
Higher Secondary	2	(3.45) (25)	6	(17.3) (15)	8	(7.4) (100)	8	(2.3) (30)	2	(3.5) (20)	10	(8.2) (100)	5	(23.4) (6.0)	10	(16.2) (40)	25	(21.01) (100)	9	(12.68) (2.34)	8	(16.1) (47.1)	17	(15.53) (90)	34	(14.23) (56.7)	26	(17.97) (43.3)	60	(13.10) (100)
Graduate and above	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	(3.2) (100)	0	0	2	(1.68) (100)	2	(2.81) (100)	0	0	2	(1.54) (90)	4	(1.67) (100)	8	0	4	(8.67) (100)
Diploma/Technical education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand total*	52	(100) (48.2)	56	(52.6) (100) (51.5)	108	(100) (100)	65	(100) (53.3)	57	(100) (46.7)	122	(100) (100)	64	(100) (52.78)	55	(100) (46.21)	115	(100) (100)	71	(100) (58.15)	51	(100) (41.5)	122	(100) (90)	239	(100) (52.18)	219	(100) (41.8)	438	(100) (100)
Note: 'a' Percentage with respect to total population of sample household																														
'b' Percentage with respect to total population in each category																														
* Underage population (0-7) excluded																														

Note: 'a' Percentage with respect to total population of sample household

'b' Percentage with respect to total population in each category

\*Underage population (0-7)excluded

Source: Survey Data.

### Type of House

Table 3 shows that out of total household in the study area, about 46 respondents have pacca houses. Number of household living in semi-pacca houses are 25. There are about 26 families who are living in the Kachcha houses and about 3 households are still living in Kullas (house made of dry bushes).

Table 3: Type of House

Type of House	Gharna		Sai Khurd		Chandu Check		Bega		Combined	
	No. of House-holds	% Age	No. of House-holds	% Age	No. of House-holds	% Age	No. of House-holds	% Age	No. of House-holds	% Age
Kulla	0	0	2	8	0	0	1	4	3	3
Kachcha	12	48	9	36	0	0	5	20	26	26
Semi-Pacca	1	4	8	32	10	40	6	24	25	25
Pacca	12	48	6	24	15	60	13	52	46	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Survey Data.

Village wise data shows that in Gharna about 48 per cent of household are living in pacca houses and same number of household (48%) are living in Kachcha houses. There is only one household living in semi-pacca house and no household in village is found to be living in Kullas. In Sai Khurd, major portion of the respondents (36%) are living in Kachcha houses followed by semi-pacca houses in which about 32 per cent of the respondent live. About 24 per cent of total respondent in Sai Khurd are living in Pacca houses and there are about 8 per cent families who lives in kullas. In Chandu Check about 60 per cent of respondents are living in pacca houses and rest of the household are living in semi-pacca houses. Not a single household is found living in Kachcha house or Kullas. This is because income level is comparatively high in this area. Further this area is rich in Natural resources, for instance, the soil is very fertile in Chandu Check which results in high productivity of agriculture.

Also the cost of rearing the livestock is comparatively low since there is little need of purchasing the feed and fodder from the market. All these contribute to better living standard when compared with household of Sai Khurdor Gharna. As far as Bega village is concerned, it is found that 52 per cent of the respondents are living in the Pacca houses, whereas about 24 per cent of household are living in semi-pacca. There are 5 household in Begawho are living in Kachcha houses and there is only 1 family in Begawhich is found to be living in Kullas.

### Electricity Facility

Availability of Electricity is also an important indicator of economic progress of the region in general and of the households in particular. When researcher asked about electrification at their home, it is clear from the table 4 that all the 100 respondents replied yes and there is not a single household in the study area where there is no electrification of the house.

**Table 4: Availability of Electricity**

Availability of Electricity	Gharna		Sai Khurd		Chandu Check		Bega		Combined	
	No. of House-hold	% Age	No. of House-hold	% Age	No. of House-hold	% Age	No. of House-hold	% Age	No. of House-hold	% Age
Yes	25	100	25	100	25	100	25	100	100	100
No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Survey Data

However, electricity cuts are commonly observed in all the four villages under study. The usual duration of cuts ranging from 6 to 8 hours per day but during shortage periods electricity cuts may further increased to more than 10-12 hours a day. Sometimes they have to live without electricity even for weeks. Problem of single phase is also very common in the study area. This clearly implies that though electricity facility is available to all the respondents but still they suffer a lot due to problems like frequent cuts, single phase, etc.

Thus they may find themselves helpless during most of the hours during a day because dependence on electricity has been increasing day by day not for comfort only but also for earning livelihood. Further, frequent electricity cuts has negative impact on the education of the children as their studies depends upon for how much time electricity is available especially during evening. Many students suffer a lot due to excess of electricity cuts particularly during examinations. Thus, problem of electricity is also an important cause of poor academic performance of the children in the study area.

**Table 5: Whether House Metered**

Whether House Metered	Gharna		Sai Khurd		Chandu Check		Bega		Combined	
	No. of House-hold	% age	No. of House-hold	% Age	No. of House-hold	% Age	No. of House-hold	% Age	No. of House-hold	% Age
Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No	25	100	25	100	25	100	25	100	25	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Survey Data.

When the researcher asked about whether house metered, not a single household replied yes. Table 5 clearly

shows that the entire respondent are availing electricity facility but without meters. It has also been found that most of the families (about 60%) have illegal connections i.e., there is no record of such connections with the electricity department. Moreover, who has legal connections are consuming more units than what they are paying. They also give money to the linemen on monthly basis for the illegal use of electricity which vary from Rs.30 to Rs.150. All these lead to huge transmission and distribution losses.

### Source of Drinking Water

The human settlement in different remote regions of the world is principally based upon the factor of the easy availability of pure drinking water. Source of drinking water, to some extent also reflects the economic status of the people. When researcher asked about their source of water in the study areas 78 per cent scheduled caste household replied that they are getting water from hand pumps and 22 per cent are getting tap water as shown in table 6 below:

**Table 6: Source of Drinking Water**

Type of Facility	Gharna		Sai Khurd		Chandu Check		Bega		Combined	
	No. of House-holds	% age	No. of House-holds	% age	No. of House-holds	% age	No. of House-holds	% age	No. of House-holds	% age
Ordinary well	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hand Pump	25	100	17	68	11	44	25	100	78	78
Tap Water	0	0	8	32	14	56	0	0	22	22
Natural Spring	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Survey Data.

### Availability of Latrine Facility

Health is an important asset for the individual as well as community. Good health is a reflection of hygienic practices of an individual. Hygienic practice of a person and his family is shape by the socio-cultural, economic, physical condition of the environment and also by the knowledge or awareness of various diseases being spread (Park, 2007). Availability of latrine facility is an important indicator of socio-economic status of a community.

**Table 7: Latrine Facility in the Study Area**

Latrine Facility Available at Home	Gharna		Sai Khurd		Chandu Check		Bega		Combined	
	No. of House-hold	% Age	No. of House-hold	% Age	No. of House-hold	% Age	No. of House-hold	% Age	No. of House-hold	% Age
Yes	5	20	0	0	6	24	7	28	18	18
No	20	80	25	100	19	76	18	72	82	82
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Survey Data.

It is seen in the table 7 that out of 100 scheduled caste households in the study area only 18 scheduled castes households have latrine facility at their homes and 82 households have to go outside for defecating.



Village wise data shows that in Sai Khurd not a single household have latrine facility at their home. Number of households who have latrine facility at their home in Gharna, Chandu Check and Begaare found to be 5, 6 and 7 respectively. Thus majority of the households go to open places like farms for defecating. This clearly shows the hygiene conditions are very poor in the study area.

### Type of Family

The type and size of family explain the social, economic and political prospects of any society. The earlier family structure of scheduled castes is mostly economy oriented. However, as civilization progressed, the idea of individualism promoted nuclear families. Urbanization, industrialization and education supported small families, to larger extent. Population influx and migration to cities are also contributing factors in reducing the size of family.

**Table 8: Type of Family**

Family Type	Number of Respondents				
	Gharna	Sai Khurd	Chandu Check	Bega	Total
Nuclear	21	18	21	20	80
Joint	4	7	4	5	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Survey Data

The tabulated data (table 8) disclosed that a large majority of scheduled castes (80%) in the study area are having nuclear families where as only about 20% are living with joint families. Thus, it is clear that in scheduled caste communities of the study area the nuclear family pattern has replaced the traditional pattern of joint families.

### Size of Family

Traditionally Indian Society is characterized by Joint Family System. However, the changing conditions have compelled the people to shift to nuclear families. Same is the case with the scheduled castes families. As far as the size of family is concerned it is evident from the table 9 that one-third of scheduled caste respondents (34%) have a family of 5 (five) members. As against this 23 per cent of the families have a family size of 6 (six) members and 22 per cent have 4 (four) members. Only 1 per cent of the respondents have family size of 10 and more members.

**Table 9: Size of family**

Family Size (Members)	Number of Respondents				
	Gharna	Sai Khurd	Chandu Check	Bega	Total
3	4	2	0	2	8
4	8	1	8	5	22
5	7	10	8	9	34
6	2	7	6	8	23
7	3	1	1	1	6
8	1	2	1	0	4
9	0	2	0	0	2
10 and above	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Survey Data.

If we take the data from each village separately we may find that most of respondents in each village have family size of 4-6 members. The data analysis shows that though the families with large number of members still prevailing among the Scheduled caste community, but majority of families are following small family norms either willingly or their inability to support large family size.

## **CENTRAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT POLICIES REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES – AWARENESS AND BENEFIT DRAWN BY THEM**

India is a welfare state, committed to the welfare and development of its people in general and of vulnerable sections in particular (**Singh, 1987**). The Preamble, the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy, particularly Article 38, 39 and 46 in the Constitution of India, stand testimony to the commitment of the state to ensuring welfare of, and securing social and economic justice to, all its people (**Hussan, 2011**). Since Scheduled castes have been suffering from the dual disabilities of severe economic exploitation and social discrimination, some specific provisions have been incorporated in the Constitution to provide social justice to the members of these castes through the policy of protective discrimination. The basic purpose of incorporating these developmental provisions was to change the traditional social structure of our society, which is based upon socio-economic and political inequalities. These special provisions have played an important role in improving the socio-economic conditions and achieving a respectful position to the members of the scheduled caste communities in the society.

The development of weaker sections of the society particularly of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes has been on the agenda of the government since the starting of planned development process in our country. Even it was realized by the framers of the Constitution of India that these socially, economically and educationally backward castes cannot compete with others without the initial push given by the State. Accordingly, some special provisions, besides fundamental rights have been incorporated in the Constitution to provide justice and equal opportunities to them. The schemes which have been taken-up for socio-living and economic upliftment of scheduled castes are in the field of education, occupation, economic upliftment, health and housing schemes. The Indian Government has provided many facilities in the field of education and occupation to scheduled castes in order to bring about their upliftment. The Government is also concerned about the spread of education amongst the children of scheduled caste communities, as it is only through education, proper assimilation of this section of society with the main stream of society would be possible.

### **Welfare of Scheduled Castes**

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been entrusted with the task of welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Most Backward Classes, Other Backward Classes and Minority Communities in the country. The Special Central Assistance for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is channelized through various Departments, which coordinates in formulating, implementing and monitoring the schemes. In addition to this it also evaluates the impact of various schemes on the economic condition of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The aim of the Ministry is to bring about an all-round socio-living and economic development of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Most Backward Classes & Other Backward Classes families in general and those below the poverty line in particular.

An allocation of 5915.00 crore has been made for schemes/programmes of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (including 248.00 crore for North Eastern Region and Sikkim). This includes allocations for welfare of

Scheduled Castes, Development of Other Backward Classes, Disability Development, and Social Defence. An allocation of 1200.00 crore has been made for the scheme of Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan including 24.00 crore for NER and Sikkim. About 12 lakh Scheduled Caste persons are likely to benefit from this scheme. There is a provision of 1500.00 crore (including 30.00 crore for NER and Sikkim) for Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Castes. About 55 lakh students are likely to be benefited. In the scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs (625.00 crore including 63.00 crore for North Eastern Region and Sikkim), about 17.25 lakh students are likely to be benefited. In the scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs (50.00 crore including 5.00 crore for NER and Sikkim), about 14 lakh Students are likely to be benefited (**Expenditure Budget Vol. I, 2012-2013**).

It needs to be emphasized that programmes and schemes of the Ministry are intended to support and supplement, through financial assistance, the efforts of other central Ministries, the State Governments and Voluntary Organisations and to fill critical gaps taking into account the situation of Scheduled castes and other backward classes. The primary responsibility for promoting the interests of scheduled castes thus rests with all the central Ministries. The Ministry complements their efforts by way of various developmental interventions in critical sectors through specially tailored schemes. These comprising schemes for economic, educational and social development which are implemented through the state governments/Union Territory Administrations and Voluntary Organisations. The major schemes/programmes for the development of scheduled castes are as follows:

#### **Swavalamban Yojana**

Under this scheme the unemployed youths belonging to Scheduled Castes are encouraged to take up self employment activities and raise funds from financial institutions for such enterprises. Interest subsidy of 5% is given to the beneficiary on loans taken from banks.

#### **Sahayog Yojna**

This scheme provides financial assistance of Rs. 5,000 on the marriage of upto two girls who belongs from Scheduled Caste BPL families.

#### **Anuprati Yojna**

This scheme envisages financial assistance of Rs. 1.00 Lac to the candidates of SC/ST appearing in All India Civil Services Examinations after qualifying Preliminary Examination. Now under this scheme the candidates of SC and ST category qualifying for admission in IIMs, IITs and Medical Colleges of National level will also be benefited. A sum of Rs. 50,000/- will be provided after the candidate gets admission into such colleges. Further, the students of SC/ST who are getting 60% or above marks in 10+2 would be provided Rs. 10,000/- as incentive money after producing a certificate of admission into Government Engineering/ Medical Colleges. In the case of State Civil Service, financial assistance of Rs. 45000/- is provided to candidates of Scheduled Caste.

#### **Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs)**

The scheme of grant-in aid to the Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs) was introduced in 1978-79 for participating in the equity share of the State corporations in a Centre-State ratio of 49:51. The SCDCs finance employment oriented schemes that cover: (i) agriculture and allied activities including minor irrigation; (ii) small-scale industry; (iii) transport; and (iv) trade and service sector. (**Eleventh Five Year Plan report, Planning Commission**).

### **Small Farmers' Development Agency (SFDA) and Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourer (MFAL) Development Agency**

In order to help the small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers to get the benefits of development programmes, two separate schemes, namely, SFDA projects for the benefit of small and potentially viable farmers and MFAL projects for the development of marginal farmers and agricultural labourers were taken up. The main objective of the programme is to assist persons specifically identified from target group in raising their income level.

### **Training to Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM)**

TRYSEM is an integral part of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). This centrally sponsored programme was started on 15 Aug, 1979. The main objective of this programme was to impart technical and business expertise to these rural youth who belong to the families living below the poverty line so that they may become self-employed. This programme has been now merged in newly introduced scheme namely- SwarnaJayanti Gram SwarozgarYojana with effect from April, 1, 1999.

### **Million Wells Scheme (MWS)**

During 1988-89, Million wells scheme was started as a sub-plan of NREP/RLEGP in order to provide open irrigation wells free of cost to the poor belonging to the Sc/St, to marginal and small farmers and to freed bonded labourers. Since April, 1989 this scheme was continued under JawaharRozgarYojana but during 1995-96, it was given an independent status. Million Wells Scheme was funded by the centre and states in the ratio of 80:20. At present it has been merged with SwarnaJayanti Gram SwarozgarYojana w.e.f April, 1999.

### **Book Bank Scheme**

The Book Bank Scheme is intended to provide textbooks required for the students belonging to SCs/STs pursuing medical and engineering degree courses.

### **Pre-Matric Scholarships**

Begun in 1977-78, this scheme is for education, development of those who are engaged in the so called unclean occupations viz., scavenging of dry latrines, tanning, flaying and sweeping with traditional links with scavenging.

### **Post-Matric Scholarship for SC/ST Students**

The scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship to SC/ST was introduced in 1994-95 with the objective of providing financial assistance to students studying at post-matriculation stages in different schools and colleges so as to enable them to complete their education.

### **State Government Policies for Scheduled Castes**

We have seen above the National Development Commitment towards the welfare of the under privileged, down trodden, backward and vulnerable sections of the society is tremendous. Scheduled castes constitute 7.6 per cent of total population of the J&K state. As these groups account for sizeable proportion of the total population, the state of J&K has initiated many schemes for their upliftment on socio-economic front. The state has approved schemes keeping in view especially the economic scenario of these classes and many more schemes are in the pipeline. The schemes for the

upliftment of the said target group are implemented through various Departments/Corporations, most important of which are:-

- Social Welfare Department, J&K
- The Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes Development Corporation Ltd.

### **Social Welfare Department, J&K**

The department of Social Welfare, J&K is mandated with the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker and marginalised sections of the society. The Department administers Central and State Government's Schemes in the areas of Women and Child Development, Social Justice and Empowerment, Social Security, Tribal Development and Educational up-lift of SC, ST and OBC Students. It provides direct benefit to the target groups through scholarships, hostel facilities, reimbursement of examination fees, etc. The schemes/ programmes are implemented through various Departments, Corporations and Field Agencies.

### **SCs/STs/OBC Sector**

The objective of this sector is to address the problem of SCs, STs and other Backward Classes, particularly those who are economically and educationally backward. These sections of the society are being benefited through the following schemes of the Department.

#### **Pre-Matric Scholarship to SC Students**

The scheme is 100% State sponsored. Under this scheme scholarship are being provided to the students belonging to the SC category studying from 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> classes which has now been extended from class 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> class. The approved outlay for the year 2011-12 was ` 510.60 lakhs with a target of 75,500 students, against which 75,440 students belonging to SC Category have been benefited by incurring an expenditure of Rs.510.44 lakhs. During the current financial year i.e., 2012-13 an amount of Rs.530.77 lakhs have been incurred with coverage of 68736 students up to ending November 2012.

#### **Post-Matric Scholarship to SC/ST Students**

The scheme is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) over and above the committed liability which is to be borne by the State Government. Under the scheme students of SC/ST community are being provided scholarship whose parents or guardian's income from all sources does not exceed 1 lakh annually.

The approved outlay for the financial year 2010-11 was Rs.919.23 lakhs with a physical target of 19,000 beneficiaries, against which Rs.370.248 lakhs were incurred for covering 4078 beneficiaries' up to March, 2011 under SC Category. While as Rs.665.00 lakhs were spent under ST Category during 2010-11 with the coverage of 8338 ST students. During the year 2011-12 an amount of Rs.1398.00 lakhs were incurred with coverage of 10332 students. During the current financial year 2012-13, Rs.1786.70 lakhs is the approved outlay with target of 14930 students.

### **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)**

A centrally sponsored scheme provides monthly pension to the old-aged persons, widows and physically disabled

persons belonging to below poverty line (BPL) at the rate of Rs. 400/- per beneficiary per month. In addition, one time lump sum assistance of Rs. 10000/- is provided to the BPL family whose sole bread earner has died.

### **The Jammu and Kashmir SCs, STs and other BC Development Corporation Ltd**

As per Memorandum of Association of the Corporation, the Corporation is intended to take up wide range of activities for socio-economic and educational upliftment of the target groups viz Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes, Safai Karamcharis, Handicapped and Notified National Minorities namely Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians and Parsis. For this, the Corporation may operate establishment/enterprises of any description or advance loans at its own or in collaboration with any organization, to members of these classes to start any profession, trade or industry in farm, non-farm or service sectors etc.

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